

A Commentary on the Holy Bible
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An extract from
The prophecy of Ezekiel

The chapter summaries for Ezekiel 1–4
as at 18/6/2015
for Graham Mair.

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Ch01 Summary

In the fifth year of the captivity in Babylon of Jehoiachin, the king of Judah ^{v2}, Ezekiel the priest ^{v3}, the son of Buzi ^{v3}, was among the captives by the river Chebar ^{v1,3}, also in the land of the Chaldeans ^{v3}, when the heavens were opened and he was given divine visions ^{v1; Ezk 8:4} of the glory of the Lord ^{v28; Ezk 3:23}. On the fifth day ^{v1-2} of the fourth month ^{v1} of this year, the word of the Lord impressed Ezekiel when the hand of the Lord was upon him ^{v3} and he saw a whirlwind come out of the north, with a great cloud and fire ^{v4}. Four living creatures ^{v5} emerged from this fiery whirlwind ^{v4}, each with four different ^{v10} faces and four wings ^{v6}, and with the appearance of burning coals ^{v13}. They were cherubim ^{Ezk 10:5} who moved in straight lines ^{v12} like a flash of lightening ^{v14}. They were beneath the firmament ^{v22}, and a Voice came from the firmament above the cherubim ^{v25}, above which was a throne ^{v26} with a man upon it ^{v26} with flaming fire spreading upwards and downwards from his loins ^{v27}, and a surrounding rainbow ^{v28}. This whole scene had the likeness of the Lord appearing in His glory upon his chariot-throne ^{v26}. When Ezekiel saw it, he fell on his face, and he heard a Voice speak ^{v28} to him ^{Ezk 2:1}.

Ch02 Summary

In Ezekiel's vision ^{Ezk 1:1,3-4,27} the Voice ^{Ezk 1:24,25,28} spoke to Ezekiel, calling him 'son of man' ^{v1}, and commissioning him to the rebellious children of Israel ^{v3}. The Lord ^{v4} told him that he lived among briars, thorns and scorpions ^{v6}, yet they shall know that he was a prophet ^{v5}. He was not to be afraid of them ^{v6} but to speak God's Word whatever reception he received ^{v7}. He is told to listen and not to rebel like the rebellious house of Israel ^{Ezk 3:1}, but to open his mouth and eat what the Lord gives him ^{v8}. A hand reached out to Ezekiel, holding a scroll ^{v9}, which it spread open to show lamentations, mourning and woe written both inside and outside the scroll ^{v10}.

Ch03 Summary

In his vision ^{Ezk 1:1,3-4,27} Ezekiel had been given a scroll ^{Ezk 2:8} and the Lord now commanded him to eat it ^{v1; Ezk 2:8-9} and to speak to the house of Israel ^{v1}. He opened his mouth and the Lord caused him to eat the scroll ^{v2}, and it was as sweet as honey in his mouth ^{v3}. He is told to go to the house of Israel and to speak the Word of God ^{v11; Ezk 2:4} to them ^{v4}. He was not sent to the Babylonians ^{v5} – if he had been, they would have listened to him ^{v6}; but the house of Israel will not listen to him because

they are all impudent and hardhearted and will not listen even to God ^{v7}. The Lord strengthened Ezekiel against their opposition ^{v8} and told him not to fear them nor be dismayed at their looks ^{v9}. Ezekiel was then bodily transported by the Spirit of God ^{vv12,14; Ezk 11:24} to speak to the Jews of the captivity ^{v11} at Telabib by the river Chebar ^{v15}, at which he heard various noises ^{vv12-13} behind him including ‘Blessed be the glory of the Lord’ ^{v12}. He was embittered by their attitude ^{v14} and he sat astonished among them seven days ^{v15}. After seven days ^{v16} the Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to commission him as a watchman to the house of Israel ^{v17} to give the Jews in captivity ^{v11} warning from God ^{v17}. The Lord told Ezekiel to go into the plain where He will talk with him ^{v22}. Ezekiel arose and went into the plain where he saw the glory of the Lord ^{v23}, the ‘vision in the plain’ ^{Ezk 8:4}, which he had seen earlier by the river Chebar, and he fell on his face ^{v23} as before ^{Ezk 1:28}. The Spirit told him to shut himself in his house ^{v24} and to be dumb ^{v26} except for the words that He will give him to speak ^{v27}. He was to remain domiciled there for over a year ^{Ezk 4:5-6}, where he would enact the siege of Jerusalem ^{Ezk 4:1-2}.

Ch04 Summary

In his own home ^{Ezk 3:24}, Ezekiel is told to make a model ^{vv1-3} of Jerusalem under siege ^{vv1-3}, to re-enact Nebuchadnezzar’s earlier siege of Jerusalem in king Jehoiachin’s reign ^{2K 24:8-11; Ezk 1:2}. He is to lie on his side to indicate the length of their punishment ^{vv4-6}, three hundred and ninety days on his left side to bear the iniquity of the house of Israel ^{v5} and forty days on his right side for the iniquity of the house of Judah ^{v6}. It symbolises their continued captivity among the Gentiles ^{v13} and prefigures Nebuchadnezzar’s second siege of Jerusalem ^{vv16-17} in the ninth year of the captivity ^{Ezk 24:1-2}.

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